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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Cyprus

SUBJECT Trade Union and Communist Newspaper Agitation  
at Cyprus Mines

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(BY SOURCE)

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DATE (OF INFO) 16 - 23 Jun 53

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Supplement to:

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Source or Clarifying Statement:

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1. The Cyprus Mines Corp., a US concern employing approximately 1600 local workers at Skouriotissa, Xero and Mavrovouni is still being harrassed by the Pancyprrian Labour Federation (PEO) and articles appearing in "Neos Demokratias", a communist newspaper. 25X1X6

2. The following is a translation of an excerpt from Neos Demokratias dated 16 Jun 53:

"THE CMC MEDICAL SERVICE IS SERIOUSLY DEFICIENT BUT THE COMPANY DOES NOT ACCEPT COMPLAINTS FROM ITS WORKMEN.

CPYRGHT

"March 15 (from our correspondent) - We daily hear of more and more complaints by large numbers of CMC workmen regarding the deficiency of the Company's medical service. Many workmen complain that no special drugs are issued to them and no specialised medical treatment is rendered. Other workmen complain that they are not given the benefit of a proper medical examination because of the great numbers of patients, either workmen, members of workmen's families or outsiders. Some men say that a certain pathologist has such an amount of work to perform that he has to examine 30 to 40 patients in a period of two to three hours. Because of all these deficiencies not few are the CMC workmen who prefer to go to private doctors. While this inadmissible situation prevails the Company does not permit the submission of any complaints, even views, from its workmen. How much longer is Government going to remain indifferent in regard to the anti-labour policy of the CMC? It is on this vexed question that the miners demand an answer from Government."

3. The following is a translation of an excerpt from Neos Demokratias dated 17 Jun 53:

"THE DUTY OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE MINERS

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"How one of the workmen at the Xero Plant sees the situation.

"We the CMC workmen at Xero and Mavrovouni, either employed on the surface or underground, are faced with a heap of problems which are daily increasing.

"As it is known the Company broke relations with our Trade Union a long time ago. For us and all the CMC workmen the Trade Union is the only agency through which to submit and discuss our grievances with the Company, and to protect our interests.

"In breaking relations with our Trade Union and then dismissing from work every leading and ordinary trade union member, the Company's aim was to leave us unprotected and incapable of defending our gains or pursuing further gains in the way thousands of workmen in Cyprus are doing.

"Our trade union, however, has not for a moment ceased being concerned with our problems and vindicating and defending our trade union rights.

"Unyielding, as usual, and encouraged by the silence of Government, the American Company continues inflexible its anti-labour policy which creates for us serious problems.

"As CMC workmen we cannot but hold the Government responsible in view of the indifference which it has shown to the violation by the Company of our right of organisation.

"The anti-labour policy of the Company has been repeatedly denounced by our trade union, the Pancyprrian Labour Federation and by the Miners Central Bureau. Yet Government, by its attitude, has allowed this situation to go on.

"The situation prevailing in our area which is a result of the lack of protective measures for trade union rights, is a striking example of government policy. We are not permitted to read the newspaper which we want to read. I estimate that we are 200 members in our trade union but we cannot enter the premises of our trade union nor come into contact with our committee because somebody will see us and report us to the Company. We would then lose our jobs for certain.

"We cannot talk about our problems at work. This and many other things have been brought about by the anti-trade union policy of the Company. We, the CMC workmen, feel that it is the Government's obligation to make a determined intervention without delay in order to safeguard our trade union rights. If the Government recognises our right of organisation, free expression and our trade union rights, then it is its duty to safeguard such rights by legislation. This is No. 1 duty of government towards us, the miners.

"We are waiting to see what Government will actually do in this respect."

4. The following is a translation of an excerpt from Neos Democratis dated 21 Jun 53:

#### "MORE CMC ANTI-LABOUR ACTIONS

"Xeros 20 (from our correspondent) - Continuing its anti-labour actions, the Management of the CMC has laid off ten workmen for three days because those men did not go to work on Monday during the Bairam holidays. The CMC imposed a similar penalty about 1½ months ago on 100 other miners for failing to report for duty on Tuesday after Easter.

"Last Thursday the Company's responsible officials issued employment slips for 12 workmen but although the men were harassed for several days, they were finally not employed. This has caused resentment to the men concerned and the CMC workmen generally. The Company has not paid the men's travelling expenses.

"We understand that the Miners Trade Union will lodge a protest with the Commissioner of Labour."

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5. The following is a translation of a leaflet found in the mine on 23 Jun 53:

"LET US GO AHEAD TO DEVELOP OUR TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FURTHER.

"Dear fellow-workmen:

"The Pancyprian Labour Federation (PEO) declares: The stabilisation and the further development of our trade union movement will assist all the working men to safeguard their gains as well as to win more gains.

"PEO reaffirms that the stabilisation and strengthening of our trade union movement can be achieved if only the trade unions organise their activities according to the plan laid down by the 8th Pancyprian Trade Union Congress, and if the leading and all other members of our trade unions do the duty falling upon them under the Plan.

"With this end in view PEO has laid down its first trade union plan for 1953 to be executed by next July. The main aims of the plan are:

"1. The paying off of their subscriptions by the 12,600 members as at the end of 1952 declared by our trade unions to the registrar of trade unions.

"2. The increase of the 12,600 members by 10% to reach 14,000 by the time the Plan is due to be completed.

"3. The payment by all t.u. members of the cost of the PEO stamp for the first half of 1953.

"Fellow-committee members, dues collectors and trade union leaders:

"Enlighten all the workmen, organised and unorganised, upon the significance of the success of the Plan for their own interests. You the leading members give first the example in the discharge of your trade union duty.

"Ordinary trade union members:

"Do not wait for the trade union officers to remind you of your own duty in this respect. Act of your own. Look for the dues collector and the local t.u. leaders yourselves and pay off your subscriptions and purchase the PEO stamp. Approach the unorganised workmen and get them to join their organisations.

"Let all of us join the struggle for the execution of the PEO Plan.

"Let all of us join the struggle for making our trade union movement still stronger.

"Let all of us join the struggle for further improving our position in the working class.

June 1953.

The Central Organising Bureau  
of PEO

Printed at the "LAIKON PRAKTORION", Nicosia."

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